

THE DAILY HERALD

Salt Lake City, Utah

THURSDAY, - - DECEMBER 22 1887

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Everybody is now deep in the troublesome business of selecting Christmas presents. This accounts for the anxious, distressed expressions on many countenances one sees in the shops and stores and on the street. People are worried. They don't know what to give, and the abundance and variety from which to select does not help matters. The boy is never extremely pleased with the jack-knife he chooses from the two or three dozen spread before him. He will always regret that he did not take another one, whereas if there had been but one, he would have been content with it. If there were not so much from which to choose it would be an easier matter to select articles for Christmas presents.

One of the very best features of Christmas is this one of sending presents. It reaches the hearts of all, and brings people closer together, endearing them to each other. Unfortunately the custom has taken such a strong hold upon everybody that it controls them in many instances, for all think they must send presents, and pride induces them to do more than they can afford. Everybody wants to do a little better than he is done by, and too many gratify their ambition in this respect at the expense of their future peace of mind, and in defiance of their better judgment. If the merchants', shop-keepers' and jewelers' books were opened, they would tell tales of extravagance in the Christmas presents "charged" to parties who could not pay for them, and who therefore ought not to have bought them. There would be as recklessness in the matter if people would give their intelligence a chance and learn from it that the person who measures your affection and respect for him or her by the value of the Christmas present is unworthy esteem or consideration. In the opinion of the sensible man or woman, the one who gives more as a Christmas present than he can afford, is thoughtless of than he would be if his gift were in harmony with his financial condition rather than with his vanity and his ambition to appear rich. In selecting articles, for sending to friends at this time, bear in mind that after Christmas has gone, the reckoning will come, and that however much pleasure you may have brought to others, if you have been extravagant you have brought yourself lots of annoyance and trouble; and all very foolishly.

Another thing in regard to Christmas presents—don't let the utilitarian idea control. Don't try to cheat yourself and others by assuming that you can make duty and necessity serve as pleasure. There ought to be sentiment in a Christmas present; its appropriateness should be so suggestive that the recipient will take selfish pride in it because it will tell of the giver's thoughtfulness and desire to please. There is no sentiment in giving the wife a pair of shoes on Christmas which you should have given her a month before, or will have to buy a month later. He heart would be made happier by an inexpensive card, if the husband could afford to do no more, for she would read in the card evidence of his thoughtfulness and devotion. She may be grateful for the shoes, but she cannot deceive herself into the belief that the present is an appropriate one, and her heart will bleed though she does not confess it. The boy may be in need of a pair of trousers, but don't break his young heart by making trousers do duty as a Christmas present. He knows you must clothe him, just as you must provide coal and flour and meat; on Christmas he expects you to do something else—give him something that will not be altogether and wholly useful.

Plainly, you can be governed by utility all the other days in the year; on Christmas, let the sentiment which has grown into the day assert itself somewhat.

PROVIDE FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

It is to be hoped that the Legislature at its coming session will take a broad-minded view of the Desert University, and do all that the finances of the Territory will warrant towards elevating the institution to the plane which all desire it to occupy. We don't like to confess it, but the facts compel the admission, that the University is little if anything more than an ordinary high school. We do not say this with the idea of disparaging the ability and efforts of the learned, earnest professors and teachers who are devoting their time and energies so assiduously to the welfare of the institution, and to give it a name and a fame of which every resident of the Territory shall be proud. From the very outset the University has struggled for existence. Its history is a story of poverty and want. It has been kicked about and neglected, at times on the verge of collapse, then raised again partly from the mire and a little of life infused into it, and again permitted to flag and gasp. When one thinks of the ups and downs—mostly downs—of the University, the wonder is that the institution is alive to-day, and it is cause for surprise that it is in a condition which can in the slightest degree be called flourishing.

The University is now in a situation where it is ready to catch on to the boom and move with it. If the Legislature will be just and liberal, the school can at once be brought to the front, and started out to do the grand work intended for it. The Territory is not yet prepared to maintain an educational institution which will rank with those of the old and rich States of the east, but we are or should be in a condition to at once make of this a better school than exists in the great interior west. The money and the talent are both here, and one will command the other. It is for the Legislature to say if the combination shall be formed.

KILLED BY ELECTRICITY.

One day last week a brief telegram from Cincinnati announced the killing, by electric shock, of Stage Manager O'Connell, of a theatre there. None of the particulars were given, beyond the fact that he was in the act of ringing down the curtain at the time. Eastern papers bring full accounts of the tragedy. It seems that another man narrowly escaped death from the same cause. The examination made after the accident, showed that the insulation material from one electric light wire was worn off at a place where it touched a metal speaking tube running to the prompter's box. The electric circuit was also grounded to a zinc-covered box covering the gas stop-cocks near the prompter's stand. It was a raw, damp day which seems to have established good connection between the wire and the speaking tube. In attempting to ring down the curtain O'Connell rested one hand on the zinc-covered box and with the other touched the speaking tube, thus establishing a circuit through his own body. The instant he touched the tube he fell to the floor, uttering the command, "Ring down the curtain." He died in a few minutes. A stage hand who undertook to obey the order did exactly as O'Connell had done, and was knocked down with great force, but fortunately was not hurt, except that his hands were severely burned at the points where they had touched the tube or the zinc.

How one of the papers could say that no one was to blame, because had it been a dry day it is extremely probable that it would not have occurred, is difficult to understand. Somebody must have been to blame for placing the electric wire in contact with the speaking tube which was in use in damp as well as in dry weather. Accidents of this character have been rare, considering the prevalence of the electric wires and the want of care to prevent contact with them. The law should step in to compel the doing of what individuals neglect.

Men.

Special, private or chronic diseases are successfully treated by the long established specialist of San Francisco. The old Surgeon-in-Chief of the Living Dispensary is now at the branch Living Dispensary, Thompson Block, Salt Lake. Consultation and advice free. All who require expert medical or surgical treatment should call.

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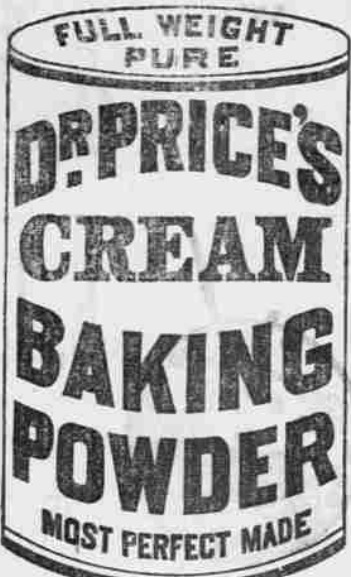
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Utah Territory.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT I will receive bids from the date hereof until the 22d day of December 1887, for furnishing Stationery, etc., for the use of the Legislative Assembly, commencing January 9th, 1888. The particulars as to items will be given by me on application of bidders. W. C. HALL, Secretary of Utah. SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 14th, 1887.

Salt Lake Theatre.

H. B. CLAWSON, - - MANAGER.

TWO NIGHTS, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 22 and 23.

THE ROMANTIC ACTOR, GUSTAVUS LEVICK.

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"HOODMAN BLIND!"

SPECIAL SCENERY! CORRECT COSTUMES! ORIGINAL MUSIC! A Perfect Production in Every Detail. Prices as Usual—25c, 50c, 75c and \$1. Reserved Seats on Sale at Theatre Box Office, Wednesday, December 21st, at 10 a.m. By order of the Board of Directors. J. FRERD CORNER, Secretary.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

OFFICE OF THE MAMMOTH MINING COMPANY, December 21st, 1887—Dividend No. 3, of \$10.00, will be paid on the capital stock of the Mammoth Mining Company, on January 3, 1888, at the office of the Secretary, Room 3, third floor, Hooper & Eldred Block, Main Street, Salt Lake City. Utah. The stock transfer books of the company will be closed on Saturday, December 24, 1887, and remain closed until Tuesday, January 3, 1888. By order of the Board of Directors. J. FRERD CORNER, Secretary.

NOTICE.

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE Stockholders of THE HERALD COMPANY held at the office of the company, in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Tuesday, January 17th, A. D. 1888, at 6 p. m., for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and the transaction of any other business that may be brought before the meeting. ELIAS A. SMITH, Secretary.

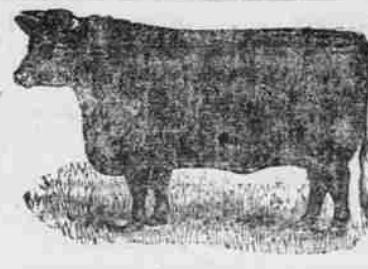
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